

Appl. No. 09/471,659
Amdt. dated August 29, 2003
Reply to final Office action of July 14, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Response is intended to be a complete response to the Office action of July 14, 2003. In the Office action, the Examiner indicated several claims to be allowed and others to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have endeavored to amend the claims to conform to the Examiner's suggestions for rewriting the claims. Applicants therefore consider the case to meet all requirements for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-32 are pending in the Application. Claims 21-26 and 31 stand allowed. Claims 8-19, 28, and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent for including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-7, 20, 27, 30, and 32 stand rejected. Applicants have cancelled Claims 1 and 27. Applicants have amended Claims 2,3, 4, 8-14, 18, 20, 28, 29, 30, and 32 herein. Claims 33 through 35 are added herein.

After these cancellations and additions, Claims 2-26 and 28 through 41 are pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 21-26, and 31 are allowable over prior art.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 8-19, 28 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent for including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, Applicants have made above amendments to rewrite the allowable dependent claims.

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the scope of the invention.

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CONCLUSION

It is submitted that all the claims now in the application are allowable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and claims and its early allowance. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution of the application would be facilitated by a telephonic interview, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 512-331-3748.

The only fees believed to be due in connection with this Response are the additional claim fees as indicated on the Amendment Transmittal Letter. If Applicant is in error the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 19-0597.

Respectfully submitted,



Pehr B. Jansson
Registration No. 35,759

Date: August 29, 2003

Enclosures:

1. Facsimile Transmittal Sheet (1 page)
2. Transmittal Form (1 page)
3. Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile (1 page)
4. Amendment Transmittal Letter in duplicate (2 pages)

Please address future correspondence to:

Customer No. 25576
Wayne Kanak
Schlumberger Conveyance and Delivery
555 Industrial Boulevard
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Tel.: (281) 285-4791
Fax.: (281) 285-7056

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